

FISCAL NOTE

SB 307 - HB 1223

January 24, 2002

SUMMARY OF BILL: Amends the current law by redefining genetic testing and excludes medical tests such as biopsies, blood tests, paternity tests and drug and alcohol abuse testing. Defines informed consent and requires informed, written consent for the release of genetic information. Prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, home loans, public accommodations and public programs. Also extends protections to life, disability and long-term care insurance. The bill would not apply to ERISA (self-insured) health insurance plans. Expands the regulatory authority of the Department of Commerce and Insurance to enforce the provisions of the bill including the authority to levy civil penalties up to \$5,000. The bill creates a study committee of twelve members including six members of the General Assembly and six members appointed by the Governor. The committee is to study issues pertaining to genetic information and testing.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$58,000 Recurring
\$4,000 One-Time**

Includes expenses for the study committee to conduct 4 meetings annually estimated to cost \$9,500 for travel expenses and for one position and related expenses in the Department of Commerce and Insurance. Neither TennCare or the state employee health insurance plan utilize genetic testing.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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